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**BCCC Selected to Receive NCIH Grants**

Beaufort County Community College and two area school systems have been selected to receive North Carolina Information Highway (NCIH) grants. BCCC, along with Tyrrell and Washington County school systems will each receive $100,000 grants to connect to the Highway next year.

For the past year, BCCC has been working with the public school systems, hospitals, selected businesses and industries, and libraries to develop the Down East Area Network - Telecommunications (DEAN-T), a distance learning network which will be connected to the NCIH. The network will also interface with East Carolina University and the School of Medicine.

The organizations involved in planning the network have developed a comprehensive list of applications for using the NCIH in their training, educational and information services. BCCC will initially use its capability as NCIH site to: deliver college level courses to selected area high schools for eligible students, provide adult continuing education occupational extension training and literacy training, convert the Down East Area library network services to NCIH/Internet, provide education to the Hyde Correctional Institution, as well as provide professional development for BCCC faculty and staff.

"The primary benefit to BCCC in becoming an NCIH site is the improved capability to fulfill its mission of providing educational opportunity to all citizens of the BCCC service area, not only to those who can afford or have time to drive to this campus."

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